

The American Board of General Dentistry (ABGD)

DANTES Test Centers' Authorization

The American Board of General Dentistry (ABGD) authorizes military installations with DANTES test centers to administer the written portion of the ABGD examination.

Background

ABGD was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit organization in 1984. The Board was organized to fulfill the following objectives and responsibilities:

- To evaluate the standards and advance the science and art of general dentistry by encouraging its study and advancing its practice.
 - To examine and determine the qualifications and proficiency of dentists who voluntarily apply to the Board for certification.
 - To grant and issue certificates in General Dentistry to qualified candidates.
 - To maintain a registry of all certified dentists and verify, upon request, the credentials of those certified.
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Description

The ABGD Examination Program

The ABGD examination program consists of:

- A written examination, and
 - An oral examination (not available through DANTES).
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Examination Domain

All examinations are developed based upon areas of **clinical knowledge, skills, and procedures** defined by the Board and validated by many professionals in the field of general dentistry.

Obtain the specific contents of the ABGD examination through the office of the Secretary of the Board.

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Description, Continued

**Criterion
Referenced**

Board examinations are criterion referenced as opposed to norm referenced. This means all candidates are evaluated based on the same pre-established standards of proficiency rather than being compared to the examination performance of other candidates.

**Written
Examination**

Some important facts about the ABGD written examination are:

	Facts
Number of Questions	350 objective multiple-choice questions and clinical situation problems
Subject Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral Pathology/Oral Medicine/Oral Diagnosis• Fixed Prosthodontics• Periodontics• Dental Materials• Endodontics• Oral Surgery• Operative Dentistry• Removal Prosthodontics-(Partial and Complete)• Dental Radiology• Orthodontics• Pediatric Dentistry• Public Health Dentistry, and Infection Control
Time Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 hours long• Administered during the course of one day in two 3-hour sections.

Written questions are based on a specific domain of general dentistry knowledge, skills, and procedures.

**Elibility for
Oral
Examination**

A candidate must pass the written examination in order to achieve Board-eligible status and take the oral examination. An Oral Examination fee of \$425 must be submitted, in U.S. funds only, to ABGD in order to test.

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Description, Continued

The Oral Examination

DANTES does not administer the oral examination.

- The oral examination consists of preparation of and oral defense of case histories.
- The case histories section of the oral examination allows the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate clinical abilities in:
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment planning
 - Case organization, and
 - Documentation.
- The candidate will submit three documented case studies **90 days before** the date of the oral exam.
- The Board will select two of the cases for presentation at the oral examination.
- The candidate is also examined orally on the eight major topic areas in general dentistry during a 4-hour period.

Diplomates

Diplomates of the Federal Services Board of General Dentistry will be certified by the ABGD upon successful completion of the ABGD written examination. To be certified, Diplomates shall submit a copy of their certificate by 1 June each year.

How to Obtain/Process an Application for the Written Examination

Application Receipt and Process

Follow these steps to obtain and process an application for the ABGD written examination.

Step	Action
1	Complete one of the prescribed entry points leading to certification (refer to page III-2-6).
2	Request the special form application from the Board Office.
3	Prepare to send the qualifying application form <u>along with:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• *Documentation of successful completion of <u>all</u> requirements outlined in one or more of the entry points leading to certification.• A \$225 application fee payable to the American Board of General Dentistry in U.S. funds. All qualifying applications must be submitted in English. *Documentation must conform to requirements specified by the Board.
4	Send the qualifying application, along with the necessary documentation and fee by <u>certified mail</u> to the Secretary of the American Board of General Dentistry, <u>postmarked no later than 4 months</u> prior to the date the applicant would like to take the test to: Secretary of the American Board of General Dentistry 211 E. Chicago Avenue Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60611-1999
5	If the Board approves the qualifying application and documentation, the applicant will be declared educationally qualified for certification and will be notified of this status by the Secretary. An exam application will be mailed with this notification.

Program Materials and Assistance

Necessary Materials

Order brochures and pamphlets providing a wide range of information about ABGD by writing to:

Executive Secretary of the American Board of General Dentistry
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611-1999

Phone: (888) 243-3368

Assistance

ABGD will address questions concerning the examination program in the following areas:

- Applicant qualifications
 - Fees
 - Educational Requirements, or
 - Any other matter directly related to certification
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Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Requirements

Specific requirements for eligibility to be examined by the Board are:

Number	Requirements
1	The applicant must possess a current license to practice dentistry granted by a dental licensing body with jurisdiction in the United States or Canada.
2	After graduation from dental school, professional experience and education or training in general dentistry which shall comply with one or more of the Board-established entry points leading to certification.

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Eligibility Requirements, Continued

Entry Points

At least one or more of the following Board-established entry points is required to be certifiable:

Entry Point	Description
I	Successful completion of a 2-year advanced formal educational program in general dentistry that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association.
II*	Successful completion of a 1-year advanced formal educational program in General Dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and documented attendance at a minimum of 600 clock hours of continuing dental education courses; of the 600 required hours, at least 200 must be in participation courses.
IV	Attainment of the status of Master of the Academy of General Dentistry

*Candidates may take the written examination prior to fulfilling the Continuing Dental Education requirement to become Conditionally Board Eligible.

Ordering Examinations

Ordering ABGD Examinations

The ABGD examinations cannot be ordered directly. ABGD will send an examination to the authorized DANTES Test Center only after a candidate is certified as educationally qualified for certification, has made an application for the exam, and has paid \$300 to take the exam.

Certification Fees

Certification Fees

Program fees for ABGD certification are:

ABGD Certification Program Area	Fee
Qualifying Application	\$225
Written Examination Fee	\$300
Oral Examination Fee	\$425
Re-examination Fee	\$250

Administration

Administration

- The ABGD examination is given once a year on the first Monday in March.
 - It is given on the same date worldwide unless the DANTES site makes prior arrangements.
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Military Administration

DANTES TEST CENTERS MAY ADMINISTER THE ABGD EXAMINATION TO ELIGIBLE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL ON AN UNFUNDED (EXAMINEE PAYS) BASIS UNLESS EXISTING MILITARY REGULATIONS PROVIDE OTHERWISE (E.G., ARMY REGULATION 40-219, NAVMEDCOMINST 1500, AND AFR 169-4).

Civilian Administration

DANTES test centers overseas and Conus may administer the ABGD examination to DOD civilians on **AN UNFUNDED (EXAMINEE PAYS), SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS** according to local command policy and Service regulations.

Scoring

Scoring	<p>The examination is scored by ABGD. All instructions for the return of materials are included with the examinations.</p> <p>The Test Control Officer (TCO) should returned all completed materials as prescribed in Part I of this <i>Handbook</i>.</p>
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Retesting

Retesting	<p>A candidate may take the written examination <u>a maximum of three times</u>. If the candidate wishes to challenge the exam a fourth time, he or she may file an appeal with the Board.</p>
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Certificate Maintenance

Certificate Maintenance	<p>Except for those granted retired status, dentists who have been certified by the Board must be <u>recertified every 5 years</u>. Certified dentists must also pay an annual registration fee of \$95.</p>
Required CEUs	<p>Requirements for recertification include accumulation of 125 continuing education units (CEUs) over the 5-year period and current credentials and qualifications.</p>
Failure to Meet Requirements	<p>Failure to meet recertification requirements will causes the Board-certified general dentist's name to be eliminated from the registration roster.</p> <p>No renewal certificate will be issued even upon payment of the annual registration fee if recertification requirements are not met.</p>

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Certificate Maintenance, Continued

Recertification Fee	In addition to the annual registration fee, a recertification fee is assessed every 5 years to cover the expense of reviewing qualifications.
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Problems

Problems	Immediately report any problems involving receipt of
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- Applications
- Descriptive Information
- Examinations
- Scores, and
- Certificates

To:

**Executive Secretary American Board of General Dentistry
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611-1999**

Phone: (888) 243-3368

Security

Test Loss or Compromise

Refer to Part I of the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH)* for complete instructions if there is an ABGD test loss or compromise.

Contact DANTES immediately and refer to specific Service regulations for complete procedures. DANTES address is:

**DANTES
Code 20F
6490 Saufley Field Road
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243**

**Phone: (850) 452-1360
DSN: 922-1360
Fax: (850) 452-1161**

Web Pages and E-mail Addresses

DANTES Web Address

Access the DANTES web pages at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

ABGD Web Address

Access the ABGD web page at www.agd.org.

DANTES E-mail Address

The DANTES Certification Program E-mail address is certprog@voled.doded.mil.
